

Carolina or Massachusetts, then they have those rights irrespective of where the child lives. If the child moves to Arizona or Pennsylvania or to another State, the rights move with the child.

I want to commend all my colleagues for their involvement in this and spend a minute in telling my colleagues how I got involved in it. A constituent of mine from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, by the name of Josephine D'Antonio, brought this problem to my attention about 3 or 4 years ago, and it was through learning of her story, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) has learned from many stories in his district, that we were able to work together as Republicans and Democrats to bring this bill to the floor today. So I want to thank Mrs. D'Antonio, Mr. Speaker, for her role in making this happen.

I also want to thank Maureen Doherty from my office, who has worked tirelessly on this legislation throughout her tenure here. She is leaving us to go to law school in a couple of weeks. There are not many people who help to write a law before they become a lawyer or a law student, and I commend her for that.

I also want to say that I have learned of the importance of the bond between grandparents and grandchildren in my own heart and in my own life. I also want to say the important lessons many of us parental learned have been in that way, and on behalf of my children I wanted to thank their surviving grandparents, Mrs. Phyllis Wolf, Mr. Ernest Spinello and Mrs. Florence Spinello for the lessons they have taught us about that very important bond.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad today we are coming together so that grandparents all across this country will be able to walk into any courthouse in any State, if they have received a court order, and know that their right to participate in the nurturing and love of their grandchildren will continue across State lines.

I urge support of the bill and thank its movers to the floor.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership on this really very, very important issue, because it focuses on allowing for the loving and caring grandparents to have a role in the lives of our children.

I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for their leadership, along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for recognizing the value of grandparents.

Let me speak for myself. Personally, I would like not to have to come to the

floor of the House on legislation like this. I would like to think that families are bonded and are together for life.

□ 1600

We would like to think there is no such thing as divorce. We would like to think of the normal or at least, let me correct myself, the family of old, the extended family, where grandparents and parents and children live together. But we do have a different life and a different life-style, and I believe it is extremely important to reinforce that when a grandparent receives visitation in one State that every other State must respect and enforce that court order.

Nationwide, the percent of families with children headed by a single parent increased from 22 percent in 1985 to 26 percent in 1995. More than 75 percent of older Americans are grandparents. This legislation gives peace of mind and comfort, but it also gives the opportunity for our children to be connected with their history.

I, too, would like to pay tribute to my children's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. Lee now deceased; and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Jackson now deceased. This is an excellent piece of legislation that helps bond our families and applauds and respects those grandparents and senior citizens who spend so much of their life contributing to the growth and nurturing of our children.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me time to speak on this important bill. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and as a parent, I care deeply about this bill.

H.R. 4164 is a law which is to the benefit of all family members. By enacting this legislation, we are requiring that when a grandparent is awarded visitation in one State, then every other State must respect and enforce that court order.

This law allows loving and caring grandparents access to their grandchildren, and it allows grandchildren the important experience of sharing time with additional family members who love and care about them, their grandparents.

In my home State of Texas the percentage of children living in single parent homes has increased by 33%.

Children growing up in single-parent households often do not have the same economic or human resources available as those growing up in 2 parent families. This law will make it possible for additional adults to make a difference in their lives, to offer support and love and guidance. Although some parents may have difficulties in their relationships with their adult children, a parent should not be able to sever the relationship between grandparent and grandchild—especially when the grandchildren and the grandparent have a meaningful, established relationship and the grandparents have been granted visitation.

For grandchildren, grandparents are the link to memories and family history. For grandparents, grandchildren are a link to the present and the future. This bill will allow a child to grow up with a sense of family history and with additional love and guidance.

Our children are our future and their well-being must be our focus. This bill recognizes

the importance of family connection and I support it on behalf of our Nation's families and our children.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, oftentimes we hear about the partisan rancor that surrounds our dealings here, and sometimes that is appropriate because of the nature of the beast. But this is a good example of how bipartisan cooperation played into bringing this bill to the floor.

My friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), did good work on this; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member; the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), chairman of the full committee. We all had our oars in the water. And with all that has been said, I guess nothing further needs to be said.

But let me say this. I would be remiss if I did not mention Debbie Laman, counsel to the committee, who worked very diligently in this matter as well. But as has been said, Mr. Speaker, the grandparent-grandchild relationship is a cherished one that should be encouraged and nurtured.

This bill before us today is designed to promote this special relationship and, hopefully, will result in the resolution of problems that presently plague not only grandparents but children and families across our land.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4164.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HIRAM H. WARD FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2379) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2379

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, shall be

known and designated as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may; consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution, H.R. 2379, simply designates the Federal building and United States courthouse located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Hiram H. Ward is a distinguished jurist who sat on the Federal bench for more than 20 years. He was born and raised in North Carolina and served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II.

In 1972, President Nixon appointed Mr. Ward to the Federal bench for the Middle District of North Carolina. He served on the Middle District as a judge and as a chief judge in 1988, when he elected to take senior status. However, even as a senior judge, Judge Ward continued to sit for an additional 6 years for the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

This is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant. I support the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the great baseball pitcher of the Democrat side.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in support of this bill. I was not expecting to speak in front of some of my colleagues from North Carolina who were the original sponsors of this bill. But I think all of us hold Judge Hiram Ward in such high esteem that we will all be lining up here to say some good things about him.

I personally, when I was practicing law, had the privilege of trying at least one case in front of him that I can remember. I may have repressed some others that I tried in front of him, but I do remember at least one case that I tried in front of him. And this tribute is especially fitting to Judge Ward, because not only did he serve for a long, long period on the Federal bench, but he was actually instrumental in the design and development of this particular courthouse in the Winston-Salem area, which, actually, the courthouse is in my congressional district.

So I just want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr.

COBLE), whose idea it was, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), who has joined with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and myself and other members of the North Carolina delegation in support of this legislation.

But, most importantly, we want to thank Judge Ward for his long service and dedication to the Federal judiciary and encourage our colleagues to support this bill so that we can get this courthouse named for him. It is certainly a worthy venture.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and exaggerating my baseball exploits.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) for his assistance in developing this bill. And I want to say to my friends, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), I do not think you embellished his prowess. I think he did a good job on the mound and that was well-deserved.

This could develop into a turf battle, except we all get along very well, Mr. Speaker. I have extended my tentacles into a county that is represented by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

I guess my coming into play in this bill is unique in that I did practice before Judge Ward and Judge Gordon when they were what I called the Dynamic Duo in those days in the Middle District. And I do not know that it has been said, but I am sure the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) will remind us when it comes his time, but Judge Ward did receive his law degree from Wake Forest University in 1950. The gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) may have mentioned that.

During the time of years in which he was in practice, he became known as one of the most distinguished trial lawyers in North Carolina. He is highly regarded not only in the Middle District of North Carolina but the Fourth Circuit as well and, for that matter, throughout the Federal judiciary.

It has been said, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, that a judge's temperament is as significant to his success on the bench as his academic credentials. I concur with that statement, Mr. Speaker; and permit me, if you will, to illustrate the temperament of Judge Ward.

I revert 2½ decades. It was the first day that he held court in the Middle District in Durham. I had the privilege of being there that day, and the first order of business was a naturalization ceremony in which a German woman became an American citizen. Keep in mind, this was Judge Ward's first day on the bench.

After citizenship was conferred upon her, she began to weep ever so softly

and then her weeping developed into more noticeable sobbing and it became a distraction in the courtroom because it appeared that she was in obvious discomfort.

I will never forget the manner in which Judge Ward resolved that problem. He said to her, "Madam, may the court assist you in any way?" And then she continued to sob even more noticeably. Then she said to the judge, after she regained her composure, she said, "Your Honor, these are tears of joy, for the most part," she said. But she said, "I am weeping because I am happy to be an American citizen. But I am weeping also because I think of my family and friends in Germany who are not able to be here with me to share this very obvious day of celebration for me."

Judge Ward then said to her, and I remember it as if it were yesterday, he said, "Madam, most people in this courtroom are Americans as a result of residence of parents at their time of birth." He said, "You, Madam, are an American by choice." And then she began to weep even more, but those were tears of joy.

I said to a bystander when Judge Ward uttered those words, I said to him, "He has the proper judicial temperament." My words were prophetic. He did indeed express and still does his senior status.

But I appreciate the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT). I look forward it hearing from Mr. BURR as well.

Again, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) and his fine subcommittee and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for having moved this bill along. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to a gentleman who, as a respected jurist and citizen, has contributed so much to his community and to his country.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

(Mr. BURR of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 2379. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I believe this is an excellent opportunity to provide a fitting tribute to a great North Carolinian, Judge Hiram Ward.

Judge Ward is known throughout North Carolina as a distinguished veteran, attorney, and Federal judge. After his plane was shot down in a World War II mission over Burma, Judge Ward was decorated with the Purple Heart and Air Medal and soon returned to the United States dedicated to his education and his career.

Following his military service, he was quickly accepted and enrolled as a student in Wake Forest College, and not university at that time, where a course in business law became his gateway to a distinguished career as a private attorney.

Judge Ward went on to serve 20 years as a private attorney, gaining the highest respect from his peers and colleagues for his devotion, his honesty and perseverance in his work. Judge Ward's passion and dedication to his work is echoed still today by his peers and colleagues in the North Carolina Federal District Court and the Fourth Circuit. This reputation ultimately earned Judge Ward an appointment to the Federal bench by President Richard Nixon in 1972. In 1982, he became chief judge, where he would stay until 1988, when he elected to take his senior status.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Ward is a man of commitment, service, and honor. He has provided North Carolina with the kind of service and dedication that I can only hope for in our future. It is my sincere belief that the legislation currently before this House to designate the Federal Building at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse" is both a fitting tribute for a man who gave so much selfless service to his country and to the people of North Carolina.

□ 1615

I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for his sponsorship of this legislation and for the rest of the North Carolina delegation who in a very bipartisan way supported this tribute to Hiram Ward. I think I can best say, in summation, that though we are here to rename a building in recognition to the good work and the dedication of Hiram Ward, in fact his reward has already been felt in the city of Winston-Salem and in the State of North Carolina by his accomplishments, his deeds and his commitment to the people of our great State.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I do not know Judge Ward, and I never met Judge Ward, but I know the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), and we received numerous letters that our subcommittee under the diligent leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) researched and reviewed, and not one of those was to the contrary.

So I would just like to say that I would first ask that those letters be spread upon the record, and, second of all, for brevity sake, just summarize by saying there is a unanimous agreement from all concerned on Judge Ward's outstanding contributions to our Nation and to that district court system

and that I am proud to join with the chief sponsor, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and all the North Carolina delegation and the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) in supporting this resolution. I ask that this bill be passed.

The letters referred to are as follows:

HENDRICK LAW FIRM,  
Winston-Salem, NC, November 3, 1997.

Congressman HOWARD COBLE,  
W. Market Street,  
Greensboro, NC.

TO THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE: I was fortunate enough to serve as a law clerk to Judge Hiram Ward in the United States Federal Court for the Middle District of North Carolina from 1973 to 1975. It was an honor to work for a principled and intelligent judge. Judge Ward has certainly served the Middle District with distinction and integrity.

I know that he made some personal sacrifices in order to maintain his offices in Winston-Salem. I think it would be highly appropriate if the U.S. Courthouse in Winston-Salem is named in honor of Judge Ward. I understand that you are submitting legislation to this effect and wanted to wholeheartedly support this legislation. Please let me know if I can do anything to assist.

Sincerely,

T. PAUL HENDRICK.

WACHOVIA,  
Winston-Salem, NC, November 3, 1997.

Congressman HOWARD COBLE,  
W. Market Street,  
Greensboro, NC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COBLE: I have just learned that you recently submitted a bill to Congress which, if enacted, would name the U.S. Courthouse in Winston-Salem in honor of Judge Hiram H. Ward. As a former law clerk for Judge Ward, I am absolutely delighted that you have submitted this bill and stand ready to support this legislation in any way that I can. For brevity's sake, and because I know it is unnecessary to do so, I will not set forth all of the reasons the courthouse should be named in honor of Judge Ward; I know that you are well aware of his distinguished career and outstanding reputation as a jurist. Suffice it to say, I cannot imagine any individual being more deserving than Judge Ward for this honor.

Again, thank you for introducing this legislation, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance in any way. Best regards.

Very truly yours,

JAMES P. HUTCHERSON,  
Counsel.

WACHOVIA,  
Winston-Salem, NC, November 3, 1997.

Hon. HOWARD COBLE,  
Member of Congress,  
Greensboro, NC.

DEAR HOWARD: I have just received a letter from Fred Crumpler indicating that you have recently submitted a bill to Congress which would name the United States Courthouse in Winston-Salem in honor of Judge Hiram Ward.

I just wanted you to know I support that bill 100% and personally am very appreciative that you would submit it to the Congress.

Judge Ward is one of the finest men and clearly one of the most outstanding judges I have ever encountered, and naming the Courthouse in Winston after him would bring honor not only to him but to Winston-Salem and all members of the bar.

Thank you for your efforts in this regard. If I can be of service in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With best personal regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KENNETH W. MCALLISTER.

SARA LEE CORPORATION,  
Winston-Salem, NC, November 3, 1997.  
Congressman HOWARD COBLE,  
W. Market Street,  
Greensboro, NC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COBLE: I recently learned of the bill you have submitted to Congress which, if enacted, would name the U.S. Courthouse in Winston-Salem in honor of Judge Hiram Ward. Having had the privileges of serving as one of Judge Ward's law clerks, appearing as a practicing attorney in his court and serving as Sara Lee's representative as a party to cases heard by him, I wholeheartedly support your efforts regarding this bill.

Judge Ward has been a tireless servant to the Federal Courts and always has merited the respect of counsel and parties appearing before him. Thank you for working to honor him in this manner.

Yours very truly,

LEON E. PORTER, Jr.,  
Chief Counsel, Personal Products.

ROBINSON & LAWING,  
Winston-Salem, NC, November 3, 1997.  
Hon. HOWARD COBLE,  
West Market Street,  
Greensboro, NC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COBLE: It was my privilege to serve as a law clerk for The Honorable Hiram H. Ward in 1989 and 1990. In addition to providing valuable exposure to some of the more practical aspects of trial practice, that experience gave me a deep insight into the integrity, conscientiousness, and fairness that Judge Ward personifies, both on and off the bench. I remember, and continue to be impressed by, the unanimously high regard that others held for Judge Ward, not only attorneys, court personnel and witnesses, but his colleagues in the Federal District Courts of North Carolina and the Fourth Circuit, as well. I believe that Judge Ward's level of service and commitment to the Federal Bench and to the Bar of Forsyth County and the Middle District has been, and will likely remain, without parallel.

I wholeheartedly support and appreciate your proposed legislation that would name the U.S. Courthouse in Winston-Salem in honor of Judge Ward. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute for a gentleman who has contributed so much, not only as a respected jurist, but as a citizen, to his community and to his country.

Yours very truly,

JOHN N. TAYLOR, Jr.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any other speakers at this time, and I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATTS of North Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2379.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.